

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02777 011443Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 INRE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7699

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2777

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: ZA RUBEZHOM ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE AP WIRE INTERPRETATION OF THE BELYAYEV ARTICLE IN THE FEBRUARY 28 ZA RUBEZHOM. AP WOULD HAVE IT THAT BELYAYEV (DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICA INSTITUTE) TOUGHENS THE SOVIET LINE ON THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH. OUR INITIAL INTERPRETATION OF THE LENGTHY ARTICLE (WE ARE SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH BELYAYEV TO DISCUSS HIS ARTICLE WITH HIM) IS THAT HE DOES NOT GO BEYOND BREZHNEV'S FEBRUARY 14 STATEMENT -- AND INDEED HE QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM IT -- ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. BELYAYEV IS EXPECTEDLY STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE STEP-BY-
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02777 011443Z

STEP APPROACH, AND HE CARPS HEAVILY ON THE ALLEGED SELF INTEREST

OF THE U.S. AND ISRAEL IN FREEZING THE SITUATION. BUT IN THE
END HE LEAVES THE AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF SOVIET VIEWS ON
PARTIAL MEASURES TO BREZHNEV BY QUOTING THE LATTER'S REMARK
THAT SUCH STEPS ARE USEFUL ONLY IF THEY REPRESENT STEPS TOWARD
A REAL SETTLEMENT AND BY URGING THE "QUICKEST" RESUMPTION
OF THE MEPC'S WORK.

3. AP WIRE INTERPRETATION OF THE BELYAYEV ARTICLE DISTORTS
TO SOME DEGREE LATTER'S REMARK THAT "AMERICAN DIPLOMACY
DOES NOT INTEND EITHER TO INDUCE ISRAEL TO MOVE TO NEGOTIATIONS
ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM NOR OCCUPY ITSELF WITH THE PROBLEM AT
LEAST UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF 1977, THAT IS, UNTIL A NEWLY ELECTED
ADMINISTRATION ENTERS THE WHITE HOUSE." BELYAYEV IS SIMPLY
MAKING THE POINT THAT AS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION APPROACHES,
THE ADMINISTRATION, IN HIS VIEW, IS GOING TO BECOME LESS AND
LESS LIKELY TO RISK OFFENDING THE JEWISH ELECTORATE IN THE U.S.
HE IS NOT SAYING, AS THE AP ARTICLE HAS IT, THAT "THE SOVIETS
SEE NO HOPE FOR U.S.-SOVIET RECONCILIATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM FOR TWO MORE YEARS."

4. A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE ARTICLE WILL FOLLOW, HOPE-
FULLY AFTER WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE ARTICLE WITH BELYAYEV HIM-
SELF.
STOESSEL

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